7EHDZO GOT'Į NĘ GOTS'Ę / NÁKEDI/SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

Dehlá Got'ıne (Ayoni Keh Land Corporation, Behdzi Ahda" First Nation Colville Lake Renewable Resources Council)

Délınę 2021 ?ełets'ewéhkwę Godı Virtual Public Listening Session

FINAL SUBMISSIONS OF THE DEHLÁ GOT'INE PARTIES

May 20, 2022

OVERVIEW

- 1. The question as proposed by the SRRB for this public listening session was "What should people's role be in maintaining healthy relations between caribou and other wildlife."
- 2. The Dehlá Got'ine listened carefully to the evidence and argument presented during the public listening session.
- 3. We also considered our own laws and the advice of our Elders.
- 4. Our conclusion is that the roles and relationships that we have with the land and the animals are best sustained by relying on Dene laws and practices. Our ts'iduweh ?e?á teach us that maintaining respectful relationships requires us as humans to leave other beings alone, and to not interfere with how they live, or assume that we know enough about them to make decisions or interventions on their behalf.
- 5. Industrial development was identified as a significant factor affecting caribou. We know that mineral exploration and other industrial activities affect caribou in many ways. These activities also affect the quality of habitat, and disrupts the relationships between caribou and other animals.
- 6. The SRRB and the GNWT can restrict industrial activities. They can require industry to behave more respectfully towards caribou and other animals, and to take measures to avoid disturbance.

7. Dehlá Got'ıne took note of the GNWT's decisions to invest resources in the wolf management program. We heard that more than \$600,000 was spent on this program in single year to harvest 85 wolves. We believe that money could be better spent to provide support to develop our community conservation plans or to assist our members to be on the land so that respectful relationships between people, the land and other animals can be monitored and maintained.

DECISIONS REQUESTED OF THE SRRB

- 8. The Dehlá Got'ine therefore request the SRRB to make the following decisions:
 - To reject proposals to interfere in the relationship between wolves and caribou, including any proposals for the introduction of a wolf cull program into the Sahtu region;
 - II. To direct management resources that may otherwise be allocated to wolf cull programs towards the development of community conservation plans and on-the-land monitoring activities;
 - III. to introduce measures to protect the calving grounds and other sensitive habitats from human disturbance, including mineral exploration;
 - IV. to further examine the direct and cumulative impacts of industrial activities on caribou and other species so that management interventions can be focused on habitat protection and other measures to mitigate such impacts, instead of focusing management inventions on Indigenous harvesters and wolves.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

New Presedent

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